

REMARKS

By this Application, Applicant continues the prosecution of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 - 14, 16, 17, and 19 - 22 as originally presented. By this Amendment, Applicant proposes changes to Claims 1 and 16 to more clearly identify the patentably distinct features thereof. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that claims as presented are allowable as well. Accordingly, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 now reads as follows:

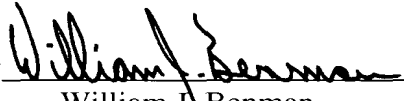
1. An apparatus for fusing toner to media, comprising:
a heating element operable to produce radiant energy;
**an elongate substantially planar thermal spreader for
converting said radiant energy into heat for fusing the toner to the
media, and**
a reflector positioned to reflect a portion of said radiant energy
toward said thermal spreader. (Emphasis added.)

None of the references, taken alone or in combination, teach, disclose or suggest the invention as presently claimed. Specifically, none of the references, teach, disclose or suggest an apparatus having, *inter alia*, an elongate, substantially planar thermal spreader for converting radiant energy into heat for fusing toner to media.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner relied heavily on Moser in the rejection of the Claims. Moser purports to teach a paper fire preventer with a nip forming fuser roll fuser. The Examiner suggests that in Figure 1 and column 3, lines 46 - 59, Moser's heater lamp 34, reflector 35, and layer 32 serve as a thermal spreader by virtue of its absorption of the lamp's radiant energy and transmission by conduction to the media. However, Moser clearly does not teach or suggest the elongate, substantially planar thermal spreader of the present invention.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 16 and the claims dependent thereon should be allowable.
Reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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